

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 17-20 and 22 are in the case.

I. ELECTION/RESTRICTION

The election of Group I, claims 17-22 is hereby affirmed. Claims 23-30 have been cancelled without prejudice to the possibility of pursuing that subject matter in a separate divisional application.

II. DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 17-20 and 22 have been rejected on alleged obviousness-type double patenting grounds as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent 6,337,318. In response, and without conceding to the merit of this rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer executed by the undersigned is submitted herewith together with the requisite Terminal Disclaimer fee. Withdrawal of the outstanding obviousness-type double patenting rejection is now respectfully requested.

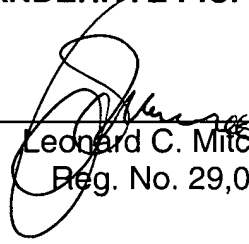
Allowance of the application is awaited.

TRIGG et al
Appl. No. 09/991,714
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


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